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Lambda Letters Project

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New Development Director Joins LLP

The Lambda Letters Project and the Lambda Letters Foundation are proud to announce the hiring of Allan Shore, a 20-year veteran of community nonprofit services and youth advocacy, as their new Development Director. The Project and Foundation have companion political and charitable missions to generate and educate lawmakers about civil and justice change in California's public policies.

Shore's role will be to secure funds for both efforts and, in doing so, to develop the base for celebrating the voices of individuals and communities in equality and justice.

"History is full of accomplishments brought about by individuals angry and passionate enough to remind law- and policymakers that governing belongs to the citizenry," said Shore. "I believe LLP and LLF have the history and the credibility even in this time of e-mails to make sure that politicians understand that the voices of ordinary constituents matter a great deal. I think donors big and small can really appreciate that too as a way to get more people empowered."

LLP, the political advocacy arm of the agency, recently received an anonymous

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Not All Laws Are Just

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Some people answered my article last month on undocumented immigrants ("A Heart-to-Heart Talk") by arguing that these immigrants are breaking the law and, for that reason, they should be deported.

With respect, I would respond by saying that not all laws are just. And sometimes circumstances may require violating the law. Let me give you some examples of unjust laws.

I was drafted into the Army in 1962. At that time I perjured myself. I swore under oath that I had no sexual interest in men and had not had sex with them. The laws banning homosexual sex in New York, where I was born, and in my adopted state of California were not lifted until the late 1970s. From the early 1960s I regularly violated those laws by having sex with men. Did my violation of those laws merit sending me to jail? No, because those laws were bad.

Up until 1865 federal and state laws permitted slavery. Other laws forbade slaves from running away from their owners and prohibited others from helping them run away. Should runaway slaves and their helpers have been punished for violating those laws? I think not. Those were evil laws.

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Sweet Victory

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Undoubtedly this article entails a little bragging. But there may also be some valuable lessons in the situation it describes.

As a result of 15 months' of work, I succeeded in getting an insurance company and the California Department of Insurance to back down. In the end, the insurance company was forced to abide by AB 2208 and the Department of Insurance was forced to enforce the bill.

I should add that I had valuable assistance in this effort from the Stonewall Democratic Club of Sacramento, Stonewall Chair Sam Catalano, and Laurie McBryde, former Executive Director of LIFE Lobby.

AB 2208 was approved by the legislature and signed by the governor in 2004. It became effective January 1, 2005. Basically it said that insurance companies and HMOs have to treat registered domestic partners the same as they do married people. Any insurance offered to domestic partners must be offered under the same terms and conditions that they are to married couples.

My domestic partner (Larry) and I purchased long-term care insurance from the Transamerica Occidental Life Insurance Company in 1995. At the time we asked for a family discount on our premiums. However the company said they only offered that to married couples.

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Letters Collected

March, 2006	14,384 letters
In all of 2006	31,319 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

January, 2006	$4,585
In all of 2005	$52,770

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Our Mission

To promote the social, economic, and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex individuals, couples, and families; people affected by HIV/AIDS; people of color; women; and people of low economic status. We urge elected officials to enact and support legislation that accomplishes this goal.

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Sara E. Freid, Sacramento, sara.freid@lambdaletters.org
Debi Henry, Sacramento, debi.henry@lambdaletters.org
Stacy L. Saetta, San Francisco, stacy.saetta@lambdaletters.org

Staff

Chief Lobbyist, E-mail Alert Advocate: Boyce Hinman, (916)728-1261, boyce.hinman@lambdaletters.org
Newsletter/Website Editor: Stefan Gruenwedel, stefan@stefanmedia.com
Legislative Analysts:
- LGBTI Issues: Shirin Buckman, shirin.buckman@lambdaletters.org
- HIV/AIDS Issues: Boyce Hinman, boyce.hinman@lambdaletters.org
- People of Color Issues: Marty Martinez, marty.martinez@lambdaletters.org
- Women's Issues: Joy Fisher, joy.fisher@lambdaletters.org
- Economic Issues: Shirin Buckman, shirin.buckman@lambdaletters.org

General Coordinator: Aeire Stickney, aeire.stickney@lambdaletters.org
Volunteer Coordinator: Pat Washington, pat.washington@lambdaletters.org
Foundation Volunteers: Joy Fisher, joy.fisher@lambdaletters.org; Robert Harrison, robert.harrison@lambdaletters.org; Rusty Nichols rusty.nichols@lambdaletters.org

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Send address changes to Lambda Letters Project, 3726 Madison Avenue #1, San Diego, CA 92116 or e-mail aeire.stickney@lambdaletters.org.

Discrimination Complaints

Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation or because of your age (40 and over), ancestry, color, creed, disability, marital status, medical condition, national origin, race, religion, or sex? Have you been denied family and medical care leave or pregnancy disability leave? If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684. In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212. The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

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HIV/AIDS Issue

Protect Women from AIDS

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Please write to the Assembly Appropriations Committee in support of AB 2203. Here is why this article is so important.

Approximately 40,000 new HIV infections occur each year in the United States, about 30% of these among women. Of these newly infected people, half are younger than 25 years old. The following data from the US Centers for Disease Control illustrate the impact of the epidemic on women.

Cumulative Effects of HIV Infection and AIDS

Through 2003, 170,679 women were given a diagnosis of AIDS, a number that represents about one fifth of the total 929,985 AIDS diagnoses. An estimated 81,864 women with AIDS died. These women account for 16% of the 524,060 deaths of persons with AIDS. Women with AIDS made up an increasing part of the epidemic. In 1992, women accounted for an estimated 14% of adults and adolescents living with AIDS. By the end of 2003, this percentage had grown to 22%.

From 1999 through 2003, the annual number of estimated AIDS diagnoses increased 15% among women and increased 1% among men. According to a recent CDC study of more than 19,500 patients in 10 US cities, HIV-infected women were 12% less likely than infected men to receive prescriptions for the most effective treatments for HIV infection.

AIDS in 2003

An estimated 11,498 women had a diagnosis of AIDS, a number that represents 27% of the 43,171 AIDS diagnoses. The rate of AIDS diagnoses for African American women (50.2 per 100,000 women) was approximately 25 times the rate for white women (2.0 per 100,000) and 4 times the rate for Hispanic women (12.4 per 100,000).

African American and Hispanic women together represented about 25% of all US women, yet they account for 83% of AIDS diagnoses reported in 2003. An estimated

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People of Color Issue

Seek Better Demographic Data

By Marty Martinez, Legislative Analyst

In our efforts to combat racial discrimination and ensure that public services are being provided to all who need them on an equal basis, quality data is important. Without information on who is still being left behind in getting quality jobs or services, we cannot take steps to improve the situation.

Efforts to ensure that good quality data is collected and appropriate categories are used in data collection will lead to improved quality of life for people of color. However, there are improvements that are needed in the way some data is collected and sorted.

For instance, Asian Pacific Americans (APA) have, until recently, been categorized as "other" or not counted at all in data collection efforts.

The state currently is required to break down data for certain APA ethnic groups, such as Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Asian Indian, Hawaiian, Guamanian, Samoan, Laotian, and Cambodian. However, this list does not include many additional APA groups.

AB 2420, authored by Assemblymember Ted Lieu (D–El Segundo), will ensure that state data is broken out into all the APA ethnic groups that have been reported by the US Census. It will force state agencies to collect separate data for additional APA ethnic groups, including Hmong, Tongan, Thai, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Malaysian, Indonesian, Taiwanese, and Fijian.

Contrary to the image of Asian Pacific Islanders as being a homogenous group, APA communities come from a variety of cultural, historical, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Comprehensive data collection is one of many steps to identify accurately the needs of these sometimes very different communities.

Please write to the Assembly Appropriations Committee in support of this important bill.

LGBTI Issue

Even Housing Discrimination Laws

By Shirin Miles, Legislative Analyst

Please write to the Assembly Appropriations Committee in support of AB 2800, which seeks to strengthen existing housing discrimination laws by making the types of discrimination that are currently prohibited the same in all laws relating to housing—including a ban on LGBTI discrimination.

AB 2800 would amend 16 current housing discrimination laws to include the prohibited forms of discrimination currently in the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA): age (40-plus), ancestry, color, religious creed, denial of family and medical care leave, disability (mental and physical) including HIV and AIDS, marital status, medical condition, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation.

For example, the Business and Professions Code makes it illegal to discriminate based on race, color, sex, religion, and marital status of a person. That covers five items on the list but misses eight others, including sexual orientation. AB 2800 would insert all 13 forms of prohibited discrimination into the code, which also bans prejudice in areas such as real estate licensure, mortgage lending, club membership, development projects, and community redevelopment.

AB 2800 is important because it will include the FEHA classification of protected persons in *all* areas of housing discrimination. AB 2800 seeks to ensure "that California has one standard—the Fair Employment and Housing Act—by which to judge this kind of discrimination," said Geoffrey Kors, Executive Director of Equality California, the organization sponsoring AB 2800. "Because not all housing codes are consistent with the FEHA definition, enforcement of housing discrimination laws has been difficult. This leaves people unprotected from housing discrimination. In addition, inconsistency in the types of discrimination prohibited from one housing law to the next leads to confusion for those charged with implementing and complying with these laws."

Please encourage the Assembly Appropriations Committee to vote for AB 2800.

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Women's Issue

Continue Funding Domestic Violence Shelters

By Joy Fisher, Legislative Analyst

During the past few years, domestic violence shelters have been supported by funds generated by a mandatory payment imposed on persons granted probation for crimes of domestic violence.

AB 352 (Chapter 431, Statutes of 2003) by Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg (D–Los Angeles) increased this payment from $200 to $400. However, that bill is set to sunset on January 1, 2007, at which time this source of funding will be substantially reduced.

Domestic violence shelters are anticipating funding cuts at every level of government as well as reductions in donations from private corporations and individual donors, according to Goldberg's office.

As a result, Goldberg has introduced AB 2695. This bill would alleviate this situation by extending the sunset date of this funding provision to January 1, 2010, thus ensuring that state funding would continue at its current level.

In addition to getting shelter, domestic violence victims benefit from other essential services offered at the shelters, such as counseling, resource referral, legal assistance, transportation, linguistic translations, and assistance with law enforcement and medical providers. These services are critical to maintaining a safety net for a vulnerable population. These services, too, will be able to be maintained if AB 2695 is passed.

In addition to its financial aspects, this bill seeks to expand the scope of protective orders to protect and defend workers better at their places of employment. As under current law, an employer could seek a protective order when an employee has suffered harassment (including stalking) or is threatened with violence, including domestic violence, which has been, or might be, carried out at the workplace.

However, under current law, when a workplace protective order is issued, it protects only the person being immediately threatened. This bill would allow employers to seek orders that protect multiple worksites, as well as orders that protect multiple employees, subject to the discretion of the court. In this way, it would eliminate or reduce the extra time and expense of seeking multiple protective orders, thereby resulting in increased judicial economy.

AB 2695 has been passed by the Assembly Committee on Public Safety and sent to the consent calendar in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Please write to this committee urging that this bill be voted out when the consent calendar is considered.

Economic Issue

Educate Inmates to Reduce Recidivism

By Shirin Miles, Legislative Analyst

AB 1981, the Collaborative Opportunities for Rehabilitation and Employment (CORE) Act authored by Assemblymember Karen Bass (D–Los Angeles), seeks to provide inmates with an education so they can prepare for a crime-free life once they get out of jail. Please ask your Assemblymember to support AB 1981 when it comes before them on the Assembly floor.

In 2003 the recidivism rate in California was 38%. In other words, 20,936 inmates, or more than one out of three prisoners, returned to prison after their release. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation credited this decline in recidivism from 45% in 1997 to an increase in vocational and educational programs offered in prisons.

AB 1981 is a good bill because it would fund community-based organizations that partner with law enforcement agencies to establish programs that "reduce the rate of recidivism of offenders and increase the potential for their successful reintegration into society."

California prisons and jails currently house around 169,000 inmates; there are about 114,300 former inmates on parole. In the 2005–06 fiscal year, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) was allocated $7.4 billion, 62% of which went to the Adult Corrections and Rehabilitations program. AB 1981 seeks to supplement existing programs for rehabilitation of prisoners by awarding grants to community organizations that have already established antirecidivism programs and which will match $1 to every $4 supplied by the grant.

This money would be used to fund organizations with programs that include "job training and placement, drug and alcohol abuse counseling, housing assistance, mental health assistance, and other comprehensive transitional services." In order to obtain the grant, the organization would have to show how their program was successful in reintegrating former inmates into society.

AB 1981 also includes provisions for accountability. The Department of Justice would evaluate the effectiveness of the programs. Each organization receiving a grant would report biennially to the governor and legislature.

According to Acting CDCR Secretary Jeanne Woodford, "The data are promising and underscore the need to continue providing meaningful, effective, and evidence-based programs to offenders in order to help them become productive citizens when they return to our communities."

She continued, "Maintaining and strengthening our relationships with our law-enforcement partners as well as providing evidence-based education and rehabilitation programs to offenders to keep them from victimizing others is good public safety."

Therefore, please write your Assemblymember and urge him or her to support AB 1981 on the Assembly floor.

HIV/AIDS Issue

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88,815 women were living with AIDS, representing 22% of the estimated 405,926 people living with AIDS. An estimated 4,736 women with AIDS died, representing 26% of the 18,017 deaths of persons with AIDS.

Given these grim statistics, we need to do whatever we can to educate women about HIV and AIDS, its prevention, and its treatment. AB 2203 takes an important step in accomplishing this. It requires doctors to provide women with an information sheet on HIV and AIDS every time they are given a gynecological exam. The form would be created by the Department of Health Services.

AB 2203 is important legislation. Please write to the Assembly Appropriations Committee and urge them to vote for AB 2203.

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May Legislative Update

Each bill introduced in the state legislature must be reviewed by a policy committee in each house before the full Assembly and Senate can vote on them. The Assembly Health Committee is one example of a policy committee. The job of the policy committee is to decide if the bill makes sense from a policy standpoint.

Any bill expected to cost the state or local governments $150,000 or more per year must also be voted on by the Appropriations Committee of each house before the full house can vote on it. A bill costing that much is called a "fiscal bill."

There are deadlines for getting through the policy committees. All fiscal bills must be approved by the policy committee of the house in which they were introduced by no later than April 28. Non-fiscal bills must be approved by the policy committee of the house in which they were introduced by no later than May 12.

Then all fiscal bills must be approved by the Appropriations Committee in the bill's house of origin no later than May 26.

Finally, all bills must be approved by their house of origin no later than June 2.

The purpose of these deadlines is to ensure that bills move forward in time to be passed before the legislature closes for the year. Any bill missing these deadlines dies. No further action is permitted on the bill unless its author gets a waiver of the rules.

In the following list, on the Status line you might see the words, "In the Appropriations Committee suspense file." This means that the Appropriations Committee has decided to delay a vote on that bill until the last day before the deadline for getting the bill out of the committee.

Here is a list of the bills we are tracking at this time.

HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 1677 (Paul Koretz, D–West Hollywood)
Purpose: To allow nonprofit agencies to distribute condoms in state prisons.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2044 (Dave Cogdill, R–Modesto)
Purpose: To allow courts to order HIV testing of a student when it is considered likely that a significant amount of blood, saliva, semen or other bodily fluid was transferred between a student and a school employee.
Status: In the Assembly Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Watch.

AB 2076 (John Laird, D–Santa Cruz)
Purpose: To allow local governments to use HIV prevention and education general funds received from the state to pay for supplies for needle-exchange programs.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Health Committee. In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2203 (Bonnie Garcia, R–El Centro)
Purpose: To require that a woman be provided an information sheet on HIV and AIDS any time she seeks an gynecological exam or family planning appointment.
Status: In the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 25. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2280 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To require the state to develop a counseling model for all people who receive HIV testing at any publicly funded clinic.
Status: In the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 18. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2383 (Mervyn Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To require HIV testing of any inmates entering a prison or hospital by court order for a period of a year or more. Would require testing 61 to120 days prior to release.
Status: In the Assembly Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1341 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To change the deadline currently in place on a law which allows thrift stores selling goods to support programs for people with HIV/AIDS to not charge a sales tax on the goods sold. These thrift stores would be allowed to sell items without charging sales tax until January 1, 2012.
Status: In the Senate Revenue and Tax Committee for a vote on April 26.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1471 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To stipulate that sex education classes in public schools should be complete, accurate, age-appropriate, and should not express bias on any of several bases including sexual orientation.
Status: In the Senate Health Committee for a vote on April 26' **LLP Position:** Support

SJR 22 (Jackie Speier, D–San Mateo)
Purpose: To ask Congress to approve federal legislation meant to speed the development of a microbicide to prevent the transmission of HIV and other diseases.
Status: In the Senate Health Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

Economic Issues

AB 75 (Dario Frommer, D–Glendale)
Purpose: To establish the California Rx Plus State Pharmacy Assistance Program. Any licensed pharmacy or drug manufacturer could enter the program. The state would negotiate drug discounts with them on behalf of people on a limited income.
Status: In the Senate Health Committee. Hearing cancelled by author. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1778 (Sally Lieber, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To allow parents to prohibit schools from releasing information about the parent's children to US military recruiters.
Status: In the Assembly Education Committee for a vote on April 26. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1780 (Joe Baca, D–San Bernardino)
Purpose: To reduce Community College fees to $18 per unit per semester.
Status: In the Assembly Higher Education Committee for a vote on April 18..
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1786 (Rudy Bermudez, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To require the Superintendent of Education to look for ways of providing extra funds to schools for student busing programs divided among school districts on an equitable basis.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Education Committee. In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on April 19.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1835 (Sally Lieber, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To increase the minimum wage to $7.25 per hour, effective July 1, 2007, and to $7.75 per hour, effective July 1, 2008. Minimum wage would be adjusted automatically every January 1 after that, based on inflation.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee. In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on April 19.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1836 (Lynn Daucher, R–Brea)
Purpose: To cause bonds to be issued, if approved by the voters of California, to be used for school building improvement or construction.
Status: Introduced. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1844 (Ed Chavez, D–City of Industry)
Purpose: To increase the minimum wage to $7.25 per hour, effective July 1, 2007, and to $7.75 per hour, effective July 1, 2008. Minimum wage would be adjusted automatically every January 1 after that, based on inflation.
Status: In the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee. Hearing cancelled by the author.
LLP Position: Support.

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Legislative Update

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AB 1851 (Joe Coto, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To delete a deadline in current law that allows participating health, dental, or vision plans to assist people in signing up for the Healthy Families Program. The plans would be allowed to continue doing this.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Health Committee. In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1971 (Wilma Chan, D–Oakland)
Purpose: Currently health insurance companies and health care plans are required to provide limited coverage, and less expensive, health coverage plans. This is a pilot program to end September 1, 2007. This bill extends the program to 2008. The bill would also require the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board to make recommendations to the legislature about establishing a high-risk pool for uninsurable persons.
Status: In the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 18. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1981 (Karen, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To establish a program of grants to be made available to community-based organizations together with local law enforcement. The grants would fund programs to provide re-entry services to inmates of local jails and hopefully reduce their rate of rearrest.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Public Safety Committee. In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on April 19.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1983 (Karen, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To allow foster children on Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) to continue getting AFDC until age 25 at the latest and as long as he or she remains in foster care and continues in full-time education for a high school diploma, a high school equivalency certificate, or the equivalent level of vocational or educational training.
Status: In the Assembly Human Services Committee for a vote on April 25.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2004 (Betty Karnette, D–Long Beach)
Purpose: To suspend Medi-Cal benefits for a juvenile who is sentenced to jail but require the Department of Correction to assure that those benefits are re-established as soon as the youth is released from jail.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Health Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2040 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To require the state to provide summer and Saturday dates for taking the high school exit exam.
Status: On the Assembly floor awaiting a final vote in that house. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2046 (Joe Coto, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To require some public schools providing kindergarten to offer full-day sessions. By 2010 all schools offering kindergarten would have to offer full-day sessions.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Education Committee. In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on April 19.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2052 (Ray Haynes, R–Temecula)
Purpose: To require the state to make grants to small businesses to encourage their development.
Status: In the Assembly Jobs and Economic Development Committee for a vote on April 18.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2192 (Karen Bass, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To allow certain drug offenders to qualify for CalWORKs benefits under certain conditions.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Human Services Committee. In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on April 19.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2262 (Joe Baca, D–San Bernardino)
Purpose: To allow the state to repay the student loans, up to a total of $11,000 per student, if they got a teaching credential in a subject that has a shortage of teachers, or if they teach in a school that has a large number of teachers with emergency credentials, or which has many low-income students, or is an underperforming school.
Status: In the Assembly Higher Education Committee for a vote on April 18.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2266 (Sally Lieber, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To put a temporary moratorium on the death penalty while it is studied.
Status: In the Assembly Public Safety Committee for a vote on April 18. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2334 (Ed Chavez, D–City of Industry)
Purpose: To require janitorial services to register annually with the state and to meet regulations set by the state including certain insurance and licensing requirements.
Status: In the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee for a vote on April 19.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2339 (Mark Ridley-Thomas, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To establish the Prostate Cancer Treatment Program to provide outreach, education, prevention, and treatment of colorectal cancer in low-income men.
Status: In the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 18. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2450 (Keith Richman, R–Granada Hills)
Purpose: To establish a single point of entry, but not an exclusive method of enrollment, for enrollment in all health care programs operated by state or local government.
Status: In the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 25. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2466 (Lynn Daucher, R–Brea)
Purpose: To allow assets in a 401(k), IRA, or 529 college savings program to be excluded when determining whether a person is poor enough to qualify for CalWORKs.
Status: In the Assembly Human Services Committee for a vote on April 25.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2469 (Noreen Evans, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To require the state to pay counties with 250,000 or fewer residents an amount annually equal to that previously paid by the county for in-home supportive and personal care services provided to people who are qualified aged, disabled, or blind persons on low incomes.
Status: In the Assembly Human Services Committee for a vote on April 25.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2481 (Noreen Evans, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To increase by 5% the rates paid to adults who provide foster care to children who have been removed from their families homes. It would also provide for an annual increase, for the next four years, in the payment for those and related services.
Status: In the Assembly Human Services Committee for a vote on April 25.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2487 (Dave Cogdill, R–Modesto)
Purpose: To request the University of California and the California State University to reimburse part of the Community College fees of students who went through community colleges and later graduated from either the University of California or California State University.
Status: In the Assembly Higher Education Committee for a vote on April 18.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2489 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To allow any county office of education, or consortium of school districts, together with a county office of education, to apply for state grants to pay for operating educational services to foster children.
Status: In the Assembly Higher Education Committee for a vote on April 18.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2495 (Karen Bass, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: This state, under the CalWORKs program, through the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) program, provides aid on behalf of eligible children who are placed in the home of a relative caretaker. This bill augments

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payments under the Kin-GAP program by amounts equal to the amount of specialized care increment or clothing allowance the child would be eligible for under the AFDC program.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2536 (Cindy Montanez, D–Mission Hills)
Purpose: To apply state laws on eight-hour workdays and 40-hour work weeks, and on overtime pay for additional hours worked, to work done by personal attendants and live-in (non-live-in) household employees.
Status: In the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee for a vote on April 19.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2576 (Hector De La Torre, D–South Gate)
Purpose: To require the Public Utilities Commission to grant lower utility rates to people whose income is at or under 250% of the federal poverty level.
Status: In the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee. Hearing cancelled at the request of the author. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2877 (Dario Frommer, D–Glendale)
Purpose: To require the state to achieve cost savings in its public health programs by using more generic drugs.
Status: In the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 18. **LLP Position:** Support.

AJR 40 (Wilma Chan, D–Oakland)
Purpose: To ask Congress to pass the Medicare Informed Choice Act, HR 3861.
Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 778 (Dean Florz, D–Bakersfield)
Purpose: To prohibit banks from charging a fee for cashing a paycheck when the bank issued the check on behalf of an employer.
Status: Passed the Assembly. In the Assembly Banking and Finance Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 840 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To provide health insurance for every resident of California.
Status: Passed the Senate. In the Assembly Rules Committee awaiting assignment to a committee. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1118 (Liz Figueroa, D–Fremont)
Purpose: To provide affordable health care for all children in California.
Status: In the Senate Rules Committee awaiting assignment to a committee.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1124 (Tom Torlakson, D–Concord)
Purpose: To allow certain retired teachers to be rehired as mentors in high-priority schools without losing any pension income.
Status: In the Senate Education Committee for a vote on April 19. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1162 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To increase the minimum wage to $7.25 per hour, effective 60 days after passage of the bill and to $7.75 per hour, effective July 1, 2007. Minimum wage would be adjusted automatically at intervals to be determined.
Status: Approved by the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee. In the Senate Appropriations Committee for a vote on April 24.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1164 (George Runner, R–Lancaster)
Purpose: To provide for a bond initiative to be approved by the voters and to provide funds for the upgrading or building of new schools.
Status: In the Senate Education Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1188 (Dean Florez, D–Bakersfield)
Purpose: To prohibit employers from writing paychecks on a bank that would charge a fee for cashing the checks unless the employer reimburses the fee.
Status: In the Senate Banking and Finance Committee for a vote on April 19.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1288 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To require Medi-Cal to cover residential and outpatient drug and alcohol abuse treatment programs for minors age 12 or older.
Status: In the Senate Health Committee for a vote on April 19. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1289 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To allow a child in foster care, and on AFDC, to continue to get public assistance from age 18–21 if he or she is still in school or is working.
Status: In the Senate Human Services Committee for a vote on April 25. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1323 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To fund a pilot program in Los Angeles for providing mental health services to ex-felons with mental health and substance abuse problems.
Status: In the Senate Health Committee for a vote on April 19. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1335 (Nell Soto, D–Ontario)
Purpose: To allow the revocation of the license of a foster care home if it does not obtain required medical and dental care for its foster children.
Status: In the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1383 Deborah Ortiz, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To declare that a student who fails the high school exit exam, but who has completed all the coursework required to graduate from high school, qualifies for a high school equivalency certificate.
Status: In the Senate Education Committee for a vote on April 19. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1534 (Richard Alarcon, D–Van Nuys)
Purpose: To require several state agencies to work together to create a single low-income program application to cover all services provided to low-income people to assure that they receive all the help for which they qualify.
Status: In the Senate Human Services Committee for a vote on April 25.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1558 (Bill Morrow, R–San Juan Capistrano)
Purpose: To increase the number of public defenders to help indigent defendants. Would also limit the number of appeals in death sentence cases.
Status: In the Senate Public Safety Committee for a vote on April 25.
LLP Position: Support if the limitation of appeals on death sentences is removed.

LGBTI Issues

AB 606 (Lloyd Levine, D–Van Nuys)
Purpose: To require school districts to establish and publicize an anti-discrimination policy that prohibits discrimination and harassment based on gender identity and sexual orientation, among other things.
Status: In the Senate Education Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1056 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To require the State Board of Education to integrate instruction on tolerance into existing English language, and social science curriculum. Would establish these requirements as a pilot program in 10 schools.
Status: In the Senate Education Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1160 (Sally Lieber, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To establish court rules that reduce the chance of defendants using panic strategies as a way of evading conviction, or to reduce their sentence in trials for hate crimes based on sexual orientation or gender identity.
Status: In the Senate Rules Committee awaiting assignment to a committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1207 (Leland Yee, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To add to the pledge contained in the Code of Fair Campaign Practices that the candidate shall not use gay-bashing or transgender-bashing in their political campaigns.
Status: In the Senate Elections Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

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Legislative Update

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AB 1897 (Mervyn Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To allow the State Personnel Board to order the state to pay a complainant's reasonable attorney's fees when the state engaged in illegal employment discrimination.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2051 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To establish a $23 fee for those registering as domestic partners. The money would go to fund domestic abuse training materials for use by programs that serve victims of same-sex and transgender domestic abuse.
Status: In the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a vote on April 18.**LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2130 (Chuck DeVore, R–Irvine)
Purpose: To require the state to consider the religious and moral concerns of the parents of a child who has been made a ward of the court when deciding which foster parents to place the child with.
Status: Failed in the Assembly Human Services Committee. Reconsideration granted.
LLP Position: Oppose. The is clearly aimed at allowing parents to veto placements with same-sex couples or with foster parents who would be supportive of an LGBTI child.

AB 2311 (Dennis Mountjoy, R–Monrovia)
Purpose: To prohibit the promotion of homosexuality in public education.
Status: In the Assembly Education Committee for a vote on May 3. **LLP Position:** Oppose.

AB 2386 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Carson)
Purpose: To require the secretary of state to post on his website a list of candidates for public office who have signed a voluntary pledge to abide by a Code of Fair Campaign Practices during an election campaign.
Status: In the Assembly Elections Committee for a vote on April 18. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2472 (Mark Wyland, R–Vista)
Purpose: To allow veterans and members of the military reserves, and their immediate family members (but not domestic partners) to qualify for in-state tuition rates for the California State University or Community College system.
Status: In the Assembly Higher Education Committee for a vote on April 18.
LLP Position: Support if amended to add domestic partners.

AB 2550 (Sam Blakeslee, R–San Luis Obispo)
Purpose: To require that any qualified member of the California National Guard or a widow, widower, or spouse of a qualified member (but not a domestic partner) be awarded additional preference points for any civil service employment.
Status: In the Assembly PERS Committee for a vote on April 19.
LLP Position: Support if amended to add domestic partners.

AB 2800 (John Laird, D–Santa Cruz)
Purpose: To ban sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination, among others, in housing and housing-related areas.
Status: In the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a vote on April 18. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2920 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To add LGBT seniors to a list of groups having the greatest need for services in our state.
Status: In the Assembly Aging and Long Term Care Committee for a vote that will probably occur on April 25.
LLP Position: Still to be determined by the LLP Legislative Committee.

SB 1263 (Elaine Alquist, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To allow people to take state tax deductions on part of the premiums for long-term care insurance for themselves and their spouses or domestic partners, among others.
Status: In the Senate Revenue and Tax Committee for a vote on April 26. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1437 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To prohibit sexual orientation or gender-based discrimination in any public school instruction or school-sponsored activities.
Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1441 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To ban sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination in programs operated or funded by the state.
Status: In the Senate Judiciary Committee for a vote on April 18. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1497 (Bob Dutton, R–Rancho Cucamonga)
Purpose: To waive community college fees for members of a family where one of them is in the armed services in a war zone. Family members is defined to include spouses but not domestic partners.
Status: In the Senate Education Committee for a vote on April 26.
LLP Position: Support if amended to include domestic partners.

People of Color Issues

AB 432 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Carson)
Purpose: To authorize a new citizen to register and vote at a location designated by the county until 8 pm on Election Day.
Status: Failed in the Senate Elections Committee. Reconsideration granted.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 680 (Wilma Chan, D–Oakland)
Purpose: To require the state Board of Education to monitor school districts to make sure that, when 15% or more of the pupils enrolled in a public school speak a single primary language other than English, all notices, reports, statements, or records sent to the parent or guardian of the pupil by the school are written in that language and may be responded to either in that language or English.
Status: Assembly concurrence pending on amendments made in the Senate. In the Assembly inactive file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 775 (Leland Yee, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To prohibit any state or local governmental agency, or any entity that receives state funding, from using any child, or permitting any child to be used, as an interpreter in any hospital, clinic, or physician office in the context of diagnosis or treatment, except as specified.
Status: Failed in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Reconsideration granted. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1076 (Jerome Horton, D–Inglewood)
Purpose: To require that public schools teach children about World War II and the role of Filipinos in that war.
Status: In the Senate Education Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1894 (Sam Blakeslee, R–San Luis Obispo)
Purpose: To have employees of the California Department of Corrections (state prisons) get involved in the investigation of undocumented immigrants.
Status: Failed in the Assembly Public Safety Committee. Reconsideration granted.
LLP Position: Oppose.

AB 1988 (Joe Coto, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To require the State Department of Education and other agencies to develop criteria to identify effective California educators and programs to train other educators in providing effective English learner instruction, and to develop databases of these educators and programs.
Status: In the Assembly Education Committee for a vote on April 26. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2060 (Hector De La Torre, D–South Gate)
Purpose: To require the Department of Community Services and Development to contract with, and allocate funds to, organizations to provide free naturalization services to would-be citizens.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2086 (Mervyn Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To require the Chancellor of California's Community Colleges to encourage community college districts in northern California to expand services to indigenous peoples through collaborative programs with private, open-access, nonprofit tribal colleges in the region. Would encourage community college districts to negotiate and implement articulation agreements with tribal

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colleges to assist indigenous peoples to gain access to nursing and teacher preparation programs.
Status: In the Assembly Higher Education Committee for a vote on April 18.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2302 (Assembly Judiciary Committee)
Purpose: To require the courts to provide interpreters in a wide variety of civil cases when a party to the proceeding is limited English proficient unless the party provides his or her own interpreter.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2420 (Ted Lieu, D–El Segundo)
Purpose: To require state agencies, when collecting demographic data, to specifically collect data for Bangladeshi, Fijian, Hmong, Indonesian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, Thai, Tongan, other Asians, and other Pacific Islanders, along with any other categories of people.
Status: In the Assembly Business and Professions Committee for a hearing on April 25.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2508 (Ray Haynes, R–Temecula)
Purpose: To change California law so as to permit the state to combat the entry of undocumented immigrants into the state.
Status: In the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a vote on April 25. **LLP Position:** Oppose.

ACR 98 (Shirley Horton, R–Lemon Grove)
Purpose: To proclaim May 2006 as World Languages and Cultures Month, encourage all educational communities in California to celebrate languages and cultures with meaningful pupil activities and programs, and urge all residents to become interested in and give full support to quality language and cultural programs for all pupils in California schools.
Status: In the Assembly Education Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

ACR 100 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To proclaim the time period of April 24 through April 30, 2006, as California Holocaust Memorial Week and urge Californians to observe these days of remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust in an appropriate manner.
Status: In the Assembly Rules Committee awaiting assignment to a committee.
LLP Position: Support.

ACR 101 (Alan Nakanishi, R–Lodi)
Purpose: To declare February 19, 2006, as a Day of Remembrance to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.
Status: In the Senate consent calendar. Awaiting final approval by the legislature.
LLP Position: Support.

ACR 115 (Joe Coto, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To recognize March 31, 2006, as the anniversary of the birth of Cesar Chavez and call upon all Californians to participate in appropriate observances to remember Cesar Chavez as a symbol of hope and justice to all persons.
Status: In the Assembly Rules Committee awaiting assignment to a committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AJR 37 (Mark Ridley Thomas, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To urge Congress to extend the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. In the Senate Rules Committee awaiting assignment to a committee. **LLP Position:** Support.

AJR 42 (Greg Aghazarian, R–Stockton)
Purpose: To designate April 24, 2006, as the California Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923, and ask Congress to do likewise.
Status: In the Assembly Rules Committee awaiting assignment to a committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AJR 43 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To urge Congress to extend the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and encourage Americans to celebrate the 41st anniversary of the Act.
Status: Introduced. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 768 (Joseph Simitian, D–Palo Alto)
Purpose: To require public entities that broadcast personal information by radio to meet requirements that protect the privacy of that information. Provides punishment for those who improperly read, or try to read, that information.
Status: Passed the Senate. In the Assembly inactive file. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1068 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To state the intent of the legislature is to establish telecommunications consumer protections that, among other things, protect a consumer's right to personal privacy, to be protected from unauthorized use of the consumer's records and personal information, and to reject intrusive communications and technology.
Status: Passed the Senate. Failed in the Assembly Utilities Committee. Reconsideration granted. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1160 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To permit the issuance of limited-use driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants in conformance with federal law.
Status: In the Senate Transportation Committee for a vote on April 18. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1267 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To establish the Office of Immigrant Affairs to ensure the integration and civic participation of new citizens in the state.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee for a vote on April 24. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1405 (Nell Soto, D–Ontario)
Purpose: To establish the Task Force on Reimbursement for Language Services to develop and adopt a mechanism for seeking federal matching funds to pay for language assistance services, including oral interpretation services and translation of written materials, for the population that is limited English proficient and that is enrolled in Medi-Cal or the Healthy Families Program.
Status: In the Senate Health Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1575 (Joe Dunn, D–Garden Grove)
Purpose: To require schools to teach children about the unconstitutional deportation of US citizens and legal residents of Mexican American heritage during the 1930s.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee for a vote on April 24. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1615 (Joseph Simitian, D–Palo Alto)
Purpose: To require state agencies that collect ethnic and racial data using filled-out forms to allow people to check more than one race and more than one ethnicity when completing the forms.
Status: In the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a vote on April 18. **LLP Position:** Support.

SCR 94 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To proclaim April 30 through May 6, 2006, as Cinco de Mayo Week and urge all Californians to celebrate the event.
Status: On the Senate consent calendar, meaning little opposition to the bill is expected.
LLP Position: Support.

Women's Issues

AB 525 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To strengthen laws regarding the reporting of emotional child abuse likely to do serious emotional damage to a child.
Status: In the Senate Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1787 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To allow courts to extend an existing restraining order that has expired if circumstances justify its continuance and the restrained person cannot be located for service of a new protective order.
Status: In the Assembly Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1796 (Rudy Bermudez, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To require people seeking a license to practice medicine to disclose any information about any sexual misconduct or harassment in his or her past.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

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Legislative Update

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AB 1911 (Bonnie Garcia, R–El Centro)
Purpose: To appropriate $15 million for the support of Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) teams—coalitions of local law enforcement and other local government agencies that work together to fight sexual assault crimes—and require the Department of Justice to study their effectiveness.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2066 (Sally Lieber, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To require the Department of Corrections to create a Female Reform Master Plan and conduct a research study of victimization of female inmates and report on the study to the legislature.
Status: In the Assembly Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Watch.

AB 2084 (Betty Karnette, D–Long Beach)
Purpose: To make improvements in the laws relating to the operation of domestic abuse shelters.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee. In the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2139 (Bonnie Garcia, R–El Centro)
Purpose: To require a police officer responding to a domestic violence complaint to inform the victim that he or she can ask the officer to request a restraining order against the perpetrator.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee. In the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2141 (Dave Jones, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To establish a parent–child communication program to help parents communicate with their children about sex so as to reduce the number of teen pregnancies.
Status: In the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 18. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2169 (Cindy Montanez, D–Mission Hills)
Purpose: To delete the sunset provision for a program designed to protect domestic violence victims from stalkers by keeping key information about the victims confidential. This protective program would continue indefinitely.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee. In the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2251 (Noreen Evans, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To prohibit anyone from posting on the Internet any information about the addresses, home phone numbers, or picture of any employee, volunteer (or their family members), or patient of a reproductive health services facility with the intent of causing bodily harm.
Status: In the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a vote on April 18. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2317 (Paul Koretz, D–West Hollywood)
Purpose: To require the State Department of Health Services to convene a work group to prepare recommendations for a postpartum mood and anxiety disorders awareness program.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Health Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2512 (Sharon Runner, R–Lancaster)
Purpose: To require a doctor, except in emergencies, to provide a woman with information and counseling on fetal pain before performing an abortion.
Status: In the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 25. **LLP Position:** Oppose.

AB 2555 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Carson)
Purpose: To increase the penalties for employers who pay employees of one sex less than those of the other sex for the same work.
Status: In the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee for a hearing on April 19.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2583 (Joe Nation, D–San Rafael)
Purpose: To require the state to create a sign informing patients of their right to have birth control medicines and devices. Would require druggists who refuse, on moral or ethical grounds, to sell these devices and medicines to display the sign prominently in the place of business at or near the front of the store. The sign would also inform patients who have been refused these items how they can submit a complaint with the California State Board of Pharmacy.
Status: In the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 18. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2695 (Jackie Goldberg, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To allow an employer to seek a restraining order against a person who committed domestic violence, when that domestic violence occurred in the workplace.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2781 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To regulate the activities of private child support collection agencies in order to protect the adult seeking child support. Would also require the person who owes child support to pay half the cost of the private collection agency's fees.
Status: In the Assembly Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

ACA 24 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To increase the income tax on income above $100,000 per year and require that the extra taxes taken in this way be used to support domestic violence shelters.
Status: Introduced. **LLP Position:** Support.

ACR 99 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To declare the month of October 2006 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
Status: In the Assembly Rules Committee awaiting referral to a committee.
LLP Position: Support.

ACR 106 (Leland Yee, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To encourage participation in the White Ribbon Campaign against violence against women.
Status: Passed by the legislature. The governor's approval is not needed. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1240 (Dennis Hollingsworth, R–Temecula)
Purpose: To appropriate an unspecified amount for the support of Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) teams, which are coalitions of local law enforcement and other local government agencies that work together to fight sexual assault crimes.
Status: Approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee. Now in the Senate Appropriations Committee for a vote on April 24.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1245 (Liz Figueroa, D–Fremont)
Purpose: To require that insurance companies of health care providers pay for the HPV test in addition to the pap test and the option of an FDA-approved cervical cancer screening test.
Status: In the Senate Banking Finance and Insurance Committee for a vote on April 19.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1260 (Deborah Ortiz, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To require that a doctor, before harvesting eggs from a woman for research purposes, obtain her written consent and provide her with information on health and consumer issues related to the process.
Status: In the Senate Health Committee for a hearing on April 19. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1402 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Under current law charges of rape cannot be prosecuted unless they have been reported within one year of the date on which the rape occurred or unless it has been corroborated by independent evidence. This bill would remove these impediments to prosecution of rape charges.
Status: In the Senate Public Safety Committee. No hearing date has been set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1487 (Dennis Hollingsworth, R–Temecula)
Purpose: To prohibit a doctor from performing an abortion unless the patient first signs a form saying she knows she cannot be forced to have an abortion and has not been forced to do so.
Status: In the Senate Health Committee for a vote on April 19. **LLP Position:** Oppose.

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SB 1491 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To prohibit any agency making grants to domestic abuse service providers from requiring, as a condition of the grant, the disclosure of identifying information about the clients they serve or requiring the use of computer programs or systems that require the disclosure of this information.
Status: In the Senate Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1599 (Denise Moreno Ducheny, D–San Diego)
Purpose: To require cities and counties to use certain funds from fees charged for marriage licenses, death certificates, and birth certificates for oversight and coordination of various domestic violence, family violence prevention, and domestic violence intervention and prosecution programs.
Status: In the Senate Judiciary Committee for a vote on April 25. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1743 (Debra Bowen, D–Redondo Beach)
Purpose: Under current law when a person petitions the court for a legal change of name to try to escape notice of an abuser, the petition and the court's order to show cause must be published. The proposed new name of the petitioner is usually in these documents. This bill would allow the name to remain confidential except that it will be placed on file with the secretary of state.
Status: In the Senate Judiciary for a vote on April 25. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1745 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To require a landlord to change the lock on a rental unit when one of the tenants shows him a restraining order issued against the other tenant. The bill prohibits the landlord from giving a key to the new lock to the person who is restrained by the order.
Status: In the Senate Judiciary Committee. Hearing cancelled at the request of the author. **LLP Position:** Support.

SCR 76 (Elaine Alquist, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To declare October 2006 as Breast Cancer Prevention and Awareness Month.
Status: Approved by the Senate. In the Assembly Rules Committee awaiting assignment to a committee. **LLP Position:** Support.

SJR 19 (Elaine Alquist, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To urge Congress and the President to uphold the Roe v. Wade decision of the US Supreme Court.
Status: In the Senate Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

Sweet Victory

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As it happened, the annual premiums for our policies were due on January 1, 2005, the effective date of AB 2208. So we sent in our full premiums but enclosed a cover letter describing AB 2208 and requesting a partial refund of the premiums so that we would have the same family discount that the company provides married couples.

The company refused. In a long series of letters from them, they claimed the bill did not affect either of our policies. They said it did not affect policies bought before the law was passed. The bill, however, says it is effective for pre-existing policies on the first day the policy renewal premium is due when that falls on or after January 1, 2005.

They claimed the premium we paid was not a renewal premium, even though the policy document called it a renewal year premium. The policies contain statements that the policy is guaranteed renewable. However, the company said that does not mean they are ever renewed. They said that language just means they would never cancel the policy. They said that, because the policy is never renewed, it never falls under the language of AB 2208 requiring equal treatment of domestic partners starting on the date a policy is renewed on or after January 1, 2005.

The company also said they had no way of determining what discount to give us should they be required to do so. They ignored the fact that they could give us the same percentage discount that they offered married couples at the time we originally applied for the policies.

Sadly, the enforcement staff at the California Department of Insurance backed up the company in each of the above arguments. The department refused to require the company to offer the discount to us. I discussed the issue with the enforcement staff in a long series of letters and phone calls to the department. By the end of that series of calls and letters, they were expressing annoyance at my pressing of the issue.

Finally I wrote a letter of complaint to the Insurance Commissioner who is an elected official. Also, Sam Catalano and Laurie McBryde presented a copy of my letter to the Commissioner when he spoke to the Sacramento Stonewall Democratic Club. I believe Laurie also put in a few calls to the Insurance Commissioner's office. In late March, Larry and I got partial refund checks from our insurance company. We won!

So what are the lessons to be learned?

First of all, getting laws passed and signed by the governor is only the first step. Often it is necessary to push companies to abide by those laws and to push government regulators to enforce them.

Second, it is important to keep complete records. We would probably not have succeeded if I had not been able to document when we bought the policies, what premiums we paid, and the fact that we are registered domestic partners.

Third, working together as a community is very important. Our community's institutions are also important. The fact that the Stonewall Club exists enabled it to exert pressure on the Insurance Commissioner who hopes to run for office again. And the experience in activism that Sam and Laurie brought to bear on the situation made it possible for them to have significant influence.

Finally, the Lambda Letters Project is one of our community's oldest civil rights groups. It is 18 years old. Lambda Letters played a major part in persuading legislators to pass AB 2208 and in getting the governor to sign it. My 18 years of experience with LLP also gave me the knowledge of California law to make a credible case to the Department of Insurance.

So I hope you will continue to support the Lambda Letters Project. Even more, get your friends to join. That will make us larger and more effective on your behalf.

And, by the way, if you and your registered domestic partner both have insurance with the same company, you may qualify for a family discount on your premiums.

New Development Director

Continued from page 1

$100,000 donation to formalize its work. It also just announced the opening of a new office—located in Sacramento at 717 K Street, Suite 224—to facilitate its constituency contact efforts. Shore will work out of that office as well as with the Lambda Letters network of supporters across California to raise money for educational and organizing efforts. The agency seeks to match its major gift to create a stronger financial future.

Shore's community and political background mirrors the focus of Lambda Letters. He has served in both consulting and progressive administrative positions for reputable community-service mental health, family services, educational, and youth projects. He garnered major fundraising successes, capital campaigns, and donor/neighborhood outreach for agencies such as Rubicon Programs Inc. in Richmond, California, and Xanthos (Alameda Family Services) in Alameda.

In his most recent management position as Executive Director of the California Coalition for Youth and the California Youth Crisis Line, Shore helped generate legislative and grassroots attention to youth empower ideals, even helping to draft California's current emphasis on recognizing the involvement of young people in the policymaking processes.

In his past work and volunteer activities, Shore served as the first Executive Director of the Oakland Men's Project (OMP), where he helped facilitate national violence prevention initiatives and helped ally agencies focus on the male educational elements of the original Take Our Daughters to Work Day events. OMP's mission to help men be allies to women—and white people be allies to people of color—is seen as an important adjunct to LLP's goals.

Shore has been recognized by the California State Legislature for his Democratic organizing efforts. He is past president of the Alameda Democratic Club and the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club. Meet Allan Shore and visit the new office at an open house on Wednesday, May 17, 4–7 PM.

AB 205 Wins Again

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

For the second time in a row, the California Supreme Court has refused an opportunity to overturn AB 205. This bill, which was passed by the state legislature in 2003, gives most of the rights of marriage to people who register as domestic partners in the state of California.

The California Supreme Court refused to review a Sacramento appeals court ruling in January of this year, which upheld the law. This appeal to the Supreme Court had been brought by the Campaign for California Families.

A previous attempt to overturn the law received the same treatment by the California Supreme Court. In that case the Alliance Defense Fund sought to have the Supreme Court overturn a decision by a San Francisco Superior Court judge that upheld AB 205.

In both cases, the opponents of AB 205 argued that the bill violated Proposition 22. AB 22 is a voter initiative, passed in 2002, which added Section 308.5 to the California Family Code. The new section said that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.

In both of the above cases, the Supreme court said, in essence, that marriage is marriage and domestic partnership is domestic partnership. So laws that establish and regulate domestic partnership do not conflict with Proposition 22.

In a related case last year (Koebke v. Bernardo Heights Country Club), the California Supreme Court ruled that a San Diego golf club could not refuse to give family member fee discounts to registered domestic partners when it gives them to married couples. The basis for this decision was the court's view that AB 205 required businesses to treat registered domestic partners in the same fashion that they treat married couples.

These three cases give a pretty clear indication that AB 205 is free of the risk of being overturned by a court decision. However, we still face the threat of its being overturned by a voter initiative.

At present 10 initiatives that would overturn AB 205 have been registered with the office of California's Secretary of State; none of them have qualified for the ballot.

However, their supporters are gathering signatures in hopes of qualifying them for the November ballot. In order to qualify for that ballot, they will have to submit petitions in support of the initiative with more than 500,000 signatures. June 29 is the deadline for submitting the signatures.

Stay tuned for the outcome.

Not All Laws Are Just

Continued from page 1

In the 1960s and early 1970s, people of all races were doing sit-ins in segregated restaurants and segregated sections of buses. In doing so, they were violating various state laws which legalized segregation. Was it right to punish people for violating these laws? I believe the answer has to be no because these laws were wrong, as our nation's courts eventually realized.

If you agree with me, then you are acknowledging that sometimes circumstances make it necessary to violate the law. That was the core theme of my article on undocumented immigrants in the last issue of this newsletter. Many of the people of the world live in desperate poverty. Many of them have children who are starving. In those circumstances, I think parents have an absolute duty to go to where they can work and make a living and provide their children with the food they need to survive and grow.

The United States has a long history of providing people in similar circumstances with just that kind of opportunity. In fact, the Statue of Liberty invites people in that situation to come here and make a new life for themselves. It wasn't until the last century that people needed any kind of documents or permission to emigrate to the United States.

However, more recently we have begun to severely limit who can come here. Only limited numbers of people can get the documents they need to do it legally under current law. As I have said, I think many people in the world live under circumstances where they have a moral obligation to come here and make a better life for themselves and their families. Most of them work hard and add a lot of value to our nation when they get here.

So, remembering the sometimes injustice of laws, I hope we can all be more supportive of good people who just want to work and earn a decent living for their families.

This newsletter printed on recycled paper

Domestic Partnership Q&A

The website of the California Secretary of State contains a series of important questions and answers (also called an FAQ) that we thought was worth passing on to you. Some of the answers contain web links that take you to further information about the subject. To use those links, visit the Secretary of State's website at *www.ss.ca.gov/dpregistry/dp_faqs.htm.* For your convenience, we are printing the contents of that page here.

How do I register a domestic partnership with the State of California?

If you and your partner are of the same sex, or if you and your partner are opposite sexes and one partner is at least 62 years old, then you may be eligible to register a domestic partnership with the Secretary of State. You may register by completing a Declaration of Domestic Partnership, having both partners' signatures notarized, and submitting it with the appropriate fee to the Secretary of State.

Why can only same-sex couples or opposite-sex couples in which at least one partner is at least 62 years of age register as domestic partners?

The eligibility criteria for registration of a domestic partnership was set by the California State Legislature and signed by the governor in 1999. During the legislative process, eligibility of opposite-sex couples was limited to senior citizens. This agency has no authority to change the criteria set by the Legislature.

Do we have to re-register every time the laws affecting domestic partnerships change?

We cannot say what the Legislature will do in the future, but they have not required partners to re-register for past changes in the law. The Legislature has automatically applied previous changes in the law to all existing domestic partnerships. When significant changes have been made, the Legislature has instructed the Secretary of State to send notices to all registered domestic partners regarding the changes. In case that happens in the future, you should keep your mailing address current with the Secretary of State.

Does the common residency requirement mean that both of our names have to be on the lease or title to the home we share?

No. The common residency requirement does not require that both of your names be on the lease or title to the home you share (see Family Code section 297(c)).

We are a same-sex couple and want to get married in Canada. Would that prohibit our registration of a domestic partnership in California?

No. California currently does not recognize same-sex marriages, no matter where performed. Therefore, you are not prohibited from filing a Declaration of Domestic Partnership in California.

I've been given a temporary work assignment at my job that requires me to move to another city for several months. Does that mean my partner and I don't meet the requirement that we share the same residence?

No. The law says that you and your partner are considered to have a shared residence even if one of you leaves that home for a period of time, so long as that partner intends to return to the home (see Family Code section 297(c)).

My partner and I are registered as domestic partners with the city in which we reside. Do we have the same rights as partners registered with the State?

No. You must be registered with California's statewide registry in order to be eligible for the rights and responsibilities of domestic partnerships under California law. You may find the Declaration of Domestic Partnership online. After completing the declaration online, print, sign and have both partners' signatures notarized. You may hand carry the declaration and filing fee to any of the Secretary of State's offices, which are located in Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, or Fresno, or mail it with the appropriate filing fee to the Secretary of State at the address provided on the declaration.

How do you terminate a registered domestic partnership?

Beginning January 1, 2005, in many circumstances, domestic partnerships may only be terminated by initiating a dissolution proceeding in the Superior Court. In circumstances where a domestic partnership meets all the requirements listed in Family Code section 299(a), the domestic partnership may be terminated by reading the Terminating a California Registered Domestic Partnership brochure and filing a Notice of Termination of Domestic Partnership with the California Secretary of State. If you have more questions about terminating a domestic partnership, you should consult with an attorney.

I find many references to the fact that there are additional rights and responsibilities of domestic partners effective January 1, 2005, but I cannot find any information on what exactly those new rights and responsibilities are. Can you advise me where I can find the text of the new law effective January 1, 2005?

The rights and responsibilities can be found in the Family Code beginning with section 297.5. However, specific rights and responsibilities are not listed in that Division of the Code; therefore, you may wish to consult with an attorney to assist you with your specific questions to ensure you receive accurate information pertaining to your circumstances.

Both my partner and I legally changed our names. What do we need to do to have these changes reflected with our domestic partnership with the State?

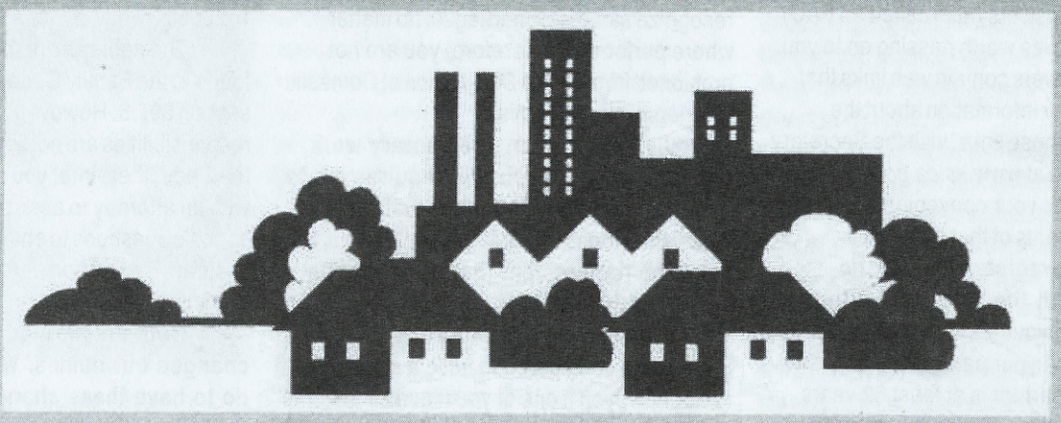
There is no provision in the law to change the name of a domestic partner as it appears in the Domestic Partners Registry. We suggest that copies of name change documents be kept with your copy of your Declaration of Domestic Partnership in case you or your partner need to show proof you and your partner are the same individuals who filed the declaration.

Are the names and addresses in the Domestic Partners Registry considered to be public information?

The Family Code and/or Government Code do not specify that the information in the Registry is confidential; therefore, the information contained in the Registry is public information. We do not have this information available online; however, we do provide it upon request both over the phone and by written request.

Do you need to be a California resident to register as domestic partners?

There is no California residency requirement in the law. The requirements to file a domestic partnership can be found in the Family Code beginning with section 297(b). If you determine you and your partner are eligible to file a Declaration of Domestic Partnership, you can complete the Declaration of Domestic Partnership online, print it and have your signatures notarized. A notary in any state can notarize your signatures. If the notary cannot use the preprinted acknowledgment form, the notary can complete a loose-leaf certificate and attach it to the declaration. You can then mail it to this office with the appropriate filing fee.



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